**Course Overview and Description**
This course will cover the major functions of the sensory systems and the mechanisms of sensation and perception at the molecular, cellular, and systems levels. In addition, it considers the physiological basis of sensory system development, plasticity, and disease based upon human clinical data and research in animal models.

**Course Prerequisites, Requirements met (general education, major, minor)**
Core Courses
MCB 314

**Student Learning Outcomes**
At the end of the course, through assignments, discussions, activities and assessments, students will be able to:
- Describe the cellular and physiological mechanisms of sensory transduction for all the major senses.
- Understand how sensory information is encoded in the brain and the neural basis of perception.
- Apply basic physical, chemical, biochemical, and physiological principles to understand sensory system function, plasticity, and disease.
- Evaluate experimental data and critique study design through critical review of primary literature

**Recommended Textbooks**

**Primary**

Secondary


*Course material is primarily drawn from Purves Neuroscience 6th edition. Bear Neuroscience 4th edition covers much of same material, although in a bit less detail.

You can order the recommended textbooks from the Illini Union Bookstore (IUB) (217-333-2050). Be certain you select the correct term from the Search by Course dropdown list. Used books are often available and can be provided at a cost savings to you. If you are ordering books elsewhere (e.g., Amazon.com), please be sure to order the correct edition and year of publication.

PDF copies of both textbooks can be found on course website

Required Primary Literature

PDFs can be found in Primary Literature Assignment folder on course website. There will be in-class discussion and weekly quizzes regarding assigned primary research papers. In some cases, optional or supplemental readings may be listed for further study.

Course Website, Course Tools (Canvas, Moodle, LON-CAPA, Zoom, etc.)

Web Address: [https://learn.illinois.edu/](https://learn.illinois.edu/)
course syllabus, lecture & exam schedule, lecture notes, assignments, and latest announcements.
iClicker code: [https://join.iclicker.com/JH62G](https://join.iclicker.com/JH62G)
Week 1 Zoom Link:
https://illinois.zoom.us/j/85078250486?pwd=R3QxMnd1WGpoT0lQVytvbVRpQ0NuZz09
Meeting ID: 850 7825 0486
Password: 038586

Grading Information and Breakdown

Letter grades will be based on:
3 in-class exams and cumulative final exam (drop lowest grade) 
100 points each: 3 x 100 = 300 (75%) 
11 weekly quizzes (drop lowest grade) 
10 points each: 10 x 10 = 100 (25%) 
iClicker extra credit (up to 20 points)

Exams: There will be three in class exams that take place on the days indicated on the syllabus. These exams will be a mix of multiple-choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer questions. Each exam will cover material from the preceding lectures, required readings, and papers discussed in class. Exams will focus on material from preceding section
but will require students to be familiar with all the concepts introduced up to that point in the course.

* Make-up exams will be given ONLY in cases where there is a sufficient, documented reason (e.g., doctor’s note for significant illness/injury). If you miss an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, you are required to contact instructor within 24 hours of the absence and will have 48 hours from the absence to submit documentation. and must be taken within two weeks of the original exam date. Students also have the option of dropping their lowest exam grade by taking cumulative final exam (see below).

**Final Exam:** There will be an optional cumulative final exam during exam week. This exam will be a mix of multiple-choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer questions covering material from the entire class. Students taking final exam have the option of dropping their lowest exam grade.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will consist of short answer and/or multiple-choice questions that will be taken online via the course website. Quizzes will cover material from the week with a particular focus on the assigned primary literature and papers discussed in class. Quizzes will open at 3:30pm Thursday and close at 11:59 pm on Saturday of the week indicated on syllabus. One 30-minute attempt is allowed for each quiz.

**iClicker:** iClicker questions will be used during lectures to assess how well key concepts are being learned and integrated as the course progresses. Up to 20 points (5%) in extra credit will be awarded for answering iClicker questions. Half of this credit will be awarded based on the percentage of questions that are answered (whether or not the answer is correct), and the remaining half will be awarded proportional to the percentage of questions answered correctly. iClicker questions may refer to material covered in recent lectures; therefore, you should try to stay as up to date with the material as possible.

**Attendance:** This course is based primarily on in-class learning via lecture, discussion, and activities. Therefore, your presence at each class period is strongly recommended in order for you to achieve the student learning outcomes. While attendance will not be included in final grade, the opportunity for iClicker extra credit points will only be afforded to those who attend class.

**Grading scale (%):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>73-75</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>&lt; 60</td>
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</table>

A curve may also be applied at the instructor’s discretion.

**Course Calendar**

Lecture slides will be posted on course website at least 24 hours in advance of each lecture. Lecture recordings will only be available to DRES students (see below for more detail).
*Note that topics to be covered in each lecture are subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Purves</th>
<th>Bear</th>
<th>articles</th>
<th>Quizzes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>Introduction and Course overview</td>
<td>Chp 1</td>
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<td>Chp 2-4</td>
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<td>Chp 5-7</td>
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<td>Vision 1</td>
<td>Chp 11</td>
<td>Chp 9</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Vision 2</td>
<td>Chp 11</td>
<td>Chp 9</td>
<td>Schiller 1986</td>
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<td>2/3</td>
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<td>Chp 10</td>
<td>Hubel 1982</td>
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<td>Vision 4</td>
<td>Chp 12</td>
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<td>Chp 12</td>
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<td>Chp 12</td>
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<td>Chp 13</td>
<td>Chp 11</td>
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<td>Chp 11</td>
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<td>Chp 11</td>
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<td>Chp 8</td>
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<td>Zhang 2003, Brann 2020</td>
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<td>3/19</td>
<td>Pain/Thermal 1</td>
<td>Chp 10</td>
<td>Chp 12</td>
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<td>Chp 10</td>
<td>Chp 12</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Development 1</td>
<td>Chp 22</td>
<td>Chp 23</td>
<td>Sharma 2000, von Melchner 2000</td>
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<td>Chp 23</td>
<td>Chp 24</td>
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<td>Chp 25</td>
<td>Chp 25</td>
<td>Cook &amp; Bear 2014</td>
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<td>Chp 25</td>
<td>Chp 25</td>
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<td>Chp 27,29</td>
<td>Chp 21</td>
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<td>4/28</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
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For non-academic campus assistance and support:
- See Office of Diversity, Equity and Access (ODEA) information at the end of this document.

Student Advocacy Resources:
- For student-centered advocacy programs and services visit: mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/advising/resources.

Adding the Course after the Semester Starts:
- We understand that the University has an add deadline 10 days into the semester, but the University lets individual courses and/or programs determine their policies for late adds. We feel that students who choose to add a course late do so at their own discretion with knowledge that there may be points lost in the process.

Religious Observances and Practices:
- Students are required to submit the Request for Accommodation for Religious Observances Form (which can be found at www.odos.illinois.edu/.../Religious_Observance_Accommodation_Request_Form.docx) to their instructors and the Office of the Dean of Students requesting accommodation by the end of the second week of the course. Requests that are not submitted within this time frame may not be granted. Information about accommodations can be found in the Student Code: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/.

DRES Accommodations:
- We are committed to providing a learning environment where our students can succeed. If you require special accommodations, please contact us and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, call 217.333.4603, or email disability@illinois.edu. We will try to meet all accommodations once the process has started. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive to the beginning of the semester, but begin the day you contact your professor, instructor or coordinator with a current letter of accommodation from DRES.
- If a student believes that they need DRES accommodations, they should contact DRES at disability@illinois.edu.

Exam Absences:
- If you must miss an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, you are required to contact your instructor or course coordinator within 24 hours of the absence. You will then have 48 hours from the absence in which to submit documentation to your instructor or course coordinator. You must also submit an online Absence Form. Course personnel will evaluate documentation and decide whether or not there will be an option to compensate for the missed exam through either a makeup exam or proration. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a zero for the exam.
- If you find yourself ill, you must submit confirmation of a visit with a medical practitioner within 24 hours of your absence. The confirmation cannot be provided by a relative, even if the relative is a practitioner.
For anticipated absence, the students should arrange with the instructor to take the conflict exam BEFORE the regular exam date.

All students have the option of taking a cumulative final exam in order to drop their lowest exam grade. There will be instances when the student must make an individual choice about their ability to perform on an exam and will need to accept any and all consequences for that choice.

If the absence is a result of a protracted illness of >3 days, you should follow the procedure for obtaining a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students. The request may be made once the student returns to class but not more than 10 business days after the last date of absence.

Exam Conflicts:

If a student has a regularly scheduled University course that conflicts with the exam, he/she should complete the online “Conflict Exam Request Form” on the course website. This request must be made by 5:00 pm not less than 3 business days prior to the exam. Requests made after 5:00 pm and less than 3 business days prior to the exam will not be granted.

Work schedules should be adjusted, if at all possible, in order to eliminate a conflict with scheduled exams. A student should plan accordingly at the beginning of the semester. If eliminating a conflict is not possible, the student should complete the online “Conflict Exam Request Form” on the course website. This request must be made by 5:00 pm not less than 3 business days prior to the exam. Requests made after 5:00 pm and less than 3 business days prior to the exam will not be granted.

Students that are formally participating in officially recognized groups, such as athletic teams and performing groups, with a conflict should request a conflict exam by 5:00 pm not less than 3 days prior to the exam via the online “Conflict Exam Request Form”. Formal participation does not include general meetings of RSOs or any other recognized groups. Documentation of the event will be required prior to scheduling the conflict exam. Requests made after 5:00 pm and less than 3 business days prior to the exam will not be granted.

Students with DRES accommodations should also submit the online “Conflict Request Form” by 5:00 pm no later than 3 business days prior to the exam. Requests made after 5:00 pm and less than 3 business days prior to the exam will not be granted. Conflict (i.e. makeup) exams will be given to individuals who have a documented excuse or written evidence, or letter approved by the Dean of the Students.

Conflict make-up exams can only be taken BEFORE the regular exam date and time.

Course Material

Students are welcome and encouraged to make audio recordings of course lectures.

Video recordings are strictly prohibited.

Posting of audio recordings or transcriptions on social or electronic media platforms is strictly prohibited.

The material recorded is intellectual and copyrighted property of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and may be made for personal use only.

Final Exam Conflict

Conflict final exams may only be granted for any one of the following situations:
• Students with three final exams scheduled within a 24 hour period as defined in Section 82.A.4. Final Examinations of the Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to All Students which can be found at: www.illinois.edu/admin/manual/code/
• Students who have two final exams scheduled at the same time. Final conflict exam requests should be made to the course with larger enrollment. Course personnel can assist with information to determine which course this would be.
• Students who have a verified personal problem, and who have received written permission to take a conflict final exam from a dean in their college.
• Students who have DRES academic accommodations.

Students that find themselves in any of the above situations should complete the online “Conflict Final Exam Request Form” which can be found on the course website. This request must be made by 5:00 pm on the last day of class in order for the request to be granted. Any requests made after this time may not be granted. If a conflict final exam is granted, it may be scheduled at any time during the final examination period and is at the discretion of the instructor or course coordinator.

Academic Integrity:
• The Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to All Students will be applied in all instances of academic misconduct committed by students. This applies to all exams, presentations, assignments and materials distributed or used in this course. You can review these policies at the following website: http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/index.html and specifically here: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/
• Science cannot exist without honesty. The faculty and staff in MCB require students, as scientists-in-the-making, to hold the highest standards of scientific and academic conduct. Any form of cheating on any graded work in courses is unacceptable.
• We require that all graded work be entirely your own, and that anything you write using the words of other writers be correctly attributed. Some specific points follow.
  • On exams, the answers that you turn in for grading must be your own, formulated during the exam from your own understanding of the material and without any supporting information, be it written, verbal or electronic. Copying the work of another student, or allowing another to copy your work, or copying work from any other source, is unacceptable. Since we cannot always monitor you as you complete your work, we must rely upon appearance of your work from which to judge. If the work you submit resembles that of another student or another source too closely, we may conclude that it was not your original work. Always make a conscious effort to complete your work on your own and to protect it from the view of others, in order to ensure that it will be seen as your own. Failure to adhere to these standards for any portion of an exam may result in a grade of zero for the entire exam or quiz for all persons involved.
  • Texting, or the use of a cell phone or any other device for any purpose, during a quiz or exam is prohibited. Doing so may earn you a zero or a more extreme penalty on the quiz or exam at the discretion of the instructor.
  • Use of any social or electronic media to share information, request information or make confidential information public is prohibited. Any use of this type may earn you a zero on the exam or a more extreme penalty at the discretion of the instructor.
  • On written or electronic assignments, the answers that you turn in for grading must be written in your own words, formulated from your own understanding of the material.
While you may be working with other students in the course, you must formulate and submit your own answers. Copying or paraphrasing the work of another student, or allowing another to copy or paraphrase your work, is unacceptable. Since we cannot monitor you as you complete your work, we have only the appearance of your work from which to judge. If the work you submit resembles that of another student too closely, we may conclude that it was not your original work. Always make a conscious effort to complete your work on your own and to protect it from the view of others, in order to ensure that it will be seen as your own. You must also make a conscious effort to protect your passwords and accounts. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in a grade of zero for the entire assignment for all persons involved.

• On written or electronic assignments, if you use a statement taken directly from any book or other publication, including the course textbook, you must provide a citation. That is, you must put the text in quotes and put the author of the publication in parentheses after the quotation. Failure to do so will result in zero credit for that answer. Further, using only the words of another author as your entire answer or as the majority of your answer to any question is never sufficient to earn credit. If the majority of your work has been taken directly from a publication, you are likely to receive no credit for the work, since you would not be demonstrating knowledge beyond the ability to copy. Even if you quote another, your answer must be substantially your own words, drawn from your own understanding of the material.

University Information of Student Safety - COVID

Building access protocols:

• Students, faculty and staff are required to have completed an on-campus COVID-19 test and received a negative result OR have a university-verified Vaccination Record Card to access university facilities.

• All students, faculty and staff participating in on-campus activities start with their building access status set to Access Denied. To initially have your status changed to Access Granted, you must have a recent negative COVID-19 on-campus test result OR a university-verified Vaccination Record Card.

• You should not ask someone if they are vaccinated. You are not required to show the vaccination status screen in your Safer Illinois app to anyone.

• The building access screen only shows if someone is compliant or not—either through vaccination or testing. This is to protect everyone’s private health information.

• Individuals are required to show their building access status to the following individuals:
  - Wellness Support Associates (WSAs)
  - Instructors (including TAs) during class time
  - Supervisors Academic advisors during meeting time
  - McKinley Health Center, Student Counseling Center and Faculty/Staff Assistance Services
  - IHR civil service testing locations

Face coverings:

• All university students, faculty, staff and visitors must wear a face covering in university spaces indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Testing locations:
Four testing sites (ARC, Illini Union, NCSA tent and CRCE) will be open seven days a week during the fall semester. View the full list of hours and locations. CRCE began offering SHIELD CU Community Testing on Aug. 12.

Form to report unsafe COVID-19 behavior:
Individuals who witness unsafe COVID-19 behavior by a student or employee may submit their experiences here: http://go.illinois.edu/COVID19-report. These reports are reviewed by Student Affairs and Illinois Human Resources.

University Information of Student Safety - Active Threats:

- **General Emergency Response Recommendations** ([Emergency Response Guide](#)):

- **Security Threat.** The Department of Homeland Security and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Office of Campus Emergency Planning recommend the following three responses to any emergency on campus: **RUN > HIDE > FIGHT**

- **Only follow these actions if safe to do so.** When in doubt, follow your instincts - you are your best advocate!

- **RUN** — Action taken to leave an area for personal safety.
  - Take the time to learn the different ways to leave your building **before** there is an emergency.
  - Evacuations are mandatory for fire alarms and when directed by authorities! No exceptions!
  - Evacuate immediately. Pull manual fire alarm to prompt a response for others to evacuate.
  - Take critical personal items only (keys, purse, and outerwear) and close doors behind you.
  - Assist those who need help, but carefully consider whether you may put yourself at risk.
  - Look for **Exit** signs indicating potential egress/escape routes.
  - If you are not able to evacuate, go to an Area of Rescue Assistance, as indicated on the front page of this plan.
  - Evacuate to Evacuation Assembly Area, as indicated on front page of this plan.
  - Remain at Evacuation Assembly Area until additional instructions are given.
  - Alert authorities to those who may need assistance.
  - Do not re-enter building until informed by emergency response personnel that it is safe to return.
  - Active Threat: IF it is safe to do so, run out of the building. Get as far away as possible. Do NOT go to the Evacuation Assembly Area.

- **HIDE** — Action taken to seek immediate shelter indoors when emergency conditions do not warrant or allow evacuation.
  - **Severe Weather:**
    - If you are outside, proceed to the nearest protective building.
    - If sheltering-in-place due to severe weather, proceed to the identified Storm Refuge Area or to the lowest, most interior area of the building away from windows or hazardous equipment or materials.
  - Active Threat:
• Lock or barricade your area.
• Get to a place where the threat cannot see you.
• Place cell phones on silent.
• Do not make any noise.
• Do not come out until you receive an Illini-Alert advising you it is safe.

• **FIGHT** — Action taken as a last resort to increase your odds of survival.
  - **Active Threat:** If you cannot run away safely or hide, be prepared to fight with anything available to increase your odds for survival.

**Student Resources/Where to go for Help:**
**We Care at Illinois**

- For sexual misconduct support, response and prevention visit: wecare.illinois.edu

*Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: [http://oiir.illinois.edu/sites/prod/files/SexualMisconduct_ResourceGuide.pdf](http://oiir.illinois.edu/sites/prod/files/SexualMisconduct_ResourceGuide.pdf)*

**Safety and Emergency**
*University Police Department, Emergency, 9-911; Non-emergency, 217-333-8911*
*University Fire Department Emergency, 9-911*
*Crisis Line, 217-359-4141*
*Emergency Dean, 300 Turner Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050*
*Counseling Center, 110 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-3704*
*Mckinley Health Center, General Information, 217-333-2701*
*Mckinley Mental Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln, 217-333-2705*
*Dean of Students, 300 Turner Students Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050*
*Local Sexual Assault Center, RACES, 217-384-4444*
*Women’s Resources Center, 703 South Wright Street, 2nd Floor, 217-333-3137*
*Rape Crisis 24-hour Hotline, 217-384-4444*
*Suicide & Psychological Emergency, Suicide Prevention Team, 217-333-3704*
*SafeRides (free nighttime campus ride program), 217-265-RIDE (265-7433)*
*SafeWalks (free walking escort service by Student Patrol), 217-333-1216*

**Student Services and Advocacy**
*Office of the Dean of Students, 300 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050*

**Classroom Support, Teaching Skills, and Instructional Strategies**
*Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, 249 Armory Building, 217-333-1462*

**Counseling Services**
*Counseling Center, 110 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-3704*
*Mckinley Mental Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2701*
*Psychological Services Center, 3rd Floor, 505 E. Green St., 217-333-0041*

**Disability Services**
*Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES), 1207 S. Oak St., 217-333-1970*

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center**
*LGTB Resource Center, 323 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., 217-244-8863*
Veterans Services
Veteran Student Support Services, Office of the Dean of Students, 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050
Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education, 908 W. Nevada St., 217-300-3515

General Study Skills Assistance
Office of Minority Student Affairs, 130 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St, 217-333-0054
Office of Minority Student Affairs Tutoring Services, 701 S. Gregory Dr., Suite 1, 217-333-7547
Writer’s Workshop, 251 Undergraduate Library, 1402 W. Gregory Dr., 217-333-8796
**Additional academic assistance may be available through individual departments

Health Resources
Health Education, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2701
Alcohol & Other Drug Office, 2nd Floor Counseling Center, 610 E. John St., 217-333-7557
Sexual Health Educator, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2714
Dial-A-Nurse, McKinley Health Center (24-hour), 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2700
Health Resource Center, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-6000
Health Resource Center, Room 40 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., 217-244-5994
McKinley Health Center, General Information, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2701

Sexual Harassment/Assault & Acts of Intolerance/Hate Crimes
Office of the Dean of Students, 300 Students Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Access (ODEA):
- For non-academic support visit: diversity.illinois.edu
  - Discrimination & Harassment Prevention
  - Title IX
  - Accessibility & Accommodations
  - Inclusive Illinois